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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Koichi NUMATA et al.

Group Art Unit: 1764

Application No.: 09/883,966

Examiner: Kaity HANDAL

Filed: June 20, 2001

Docket No.: 109237

For: FUEL REFORMING APPARATUS AND METHOD OF CONTROLLING THE FUEL
REFORMING APPARATUS

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450


Sir:

In reply to the Restriction Requirement mailed December 6, 2005, Applicants
provisionally elect Group I, claims 1-26. This election is made with traverse.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all groups is sufficiently related
that a thorough search for the subject matter of the elected group would encompass a search
for the subject matter of the remaining group. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the
search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See
MPEP §803 in which is stated that "If the search and examination of an entire application can
be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it
includes claims to distinct or independent inventions." (Emphasis added). It is respectfully
submitted that this policy should apply in the present application to avoid unnecessary delay
and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the U.S. Patent and Trademark
Office.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-30 can be examined without undue burden on the Examiner. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Restriction Requirement be withdrawn.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:SMS/sxb

Date: January 5, 2006

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